REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the present application is respectfully requested. At the time the Office Action was mailed claim 1-36 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant has: 1) amended claims 1, 9, 12, 17, 23, 24-32, and 34-36; 2) added claims 37-66, and 3) canceled. claims 10-11, 13, 15, 18-19, 21, and 33. As such, claims 1-9, 12, 14, 16-17, 20, 22-32, 34-66 are now pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims.

Claims 18, 19, and 21 were canceled to save costs in light of the new claims and not due to the art cited in the Office Action.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting an interview with respect to this Office Action. During the interview the Examiner indicated that Applicant's independent claims 1, 37, and 44 are not anticipated by Ji et al., US Patent No. 6,728,886 (hereinafter "Ji") or obvious in light of the combination of Ji and Minkin et al., US Patent No. 6,826,698 (hereinafter "Minkin"). Independent claim 50 was briefly discussed, but agreement with regard to it was not pursed; Applicant respectfully submits it is allowable because of at least the following limitations:

"an Internet access module to be coupled to connect the Internet and a local area network (LAN) including host devices, the Internet access module to receive from the host devices their anti-virus protection status and to deny Internet access to those of the host devices whose anti-virus protection status is not compliant with a corresponding anti-virus protection policy."

Independent claim 23 was not discussed, but Applicant believes is allowable because of at least the following limitations:

"using the Internet access module to enforce a policy for anti-virus protection on

the host device based on the status of anti-virus protection on the host

device, wherein the using includes,

> denying the host device access to the Internet if the status of the anti-virus
>
> protection on the host device is not compliant with the policy.

Independent claims 57 and 62 were not discussed, but Applicant believes are allowable because at least the following limitations:

> "receiving status of the anti-virus protection on the host device,
>
> determining compliance with an anti-virus protection policy based on the
>
> anti-virus protection status, and
>
> denying Internet access to the host device if its anti-virus protection status
>
> is determined not compliant."

35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4, 9, 14, 16-23, 29, and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ji. As discussed during, the Examiner's interview, Ji discloses "[w]hether the first HTTP request is automatically issued by the browser or manually issued by the user through the browser, the auto-config script detects the HTTP request (e.g., the request for the search page at Yahoo!) and accesses a virus-scan enabling (VSE) server, which in turn dispatches a set of codes capable of creating a local scan engine and/or local proxy server on the host computer to browser 210. In one embodiment, the local scan engine and/or local proxy server executable represents a Java applet, which is maintained at the virus-scan enabling (VSE) server to ensure that it is properly updated for detecting the latest viruses. Thus, as long as the local scan engine and/or local proxy server executable is updated at the VSE server, the resultant local scan engine and/or local proxy server created at the individual host computers during an HTTP transfer session is also updated." (Col. 6, lines 23-38.) (Emphasis added.) (See also Figures 3 & 4.)

"In step 314, the auto-config script directs all future HTTP requests through the local proxy server/local scan engine instead of the centralized proxy server/central scan module. In step 316, future HTTP requests are serviced by the local proxy server/local scan engine to relieve the processing and I/O bottleneck associated with the prior art central virus scan approach." (Col. 8, lines 4-10.)

As discussed above, it was agreed during the interview that independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by Ji. Also, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 23 is allowable. The remaining claims are dependent claims. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome.

35 USC § 103

Claims 12, 24-28, 30-31, 33, and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ji. Claims 5-8, 10-11, 13, 14, 32, and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ji in view of Minkin.

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reason that each of these claims is dependent on an allowable independent claim, they are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.
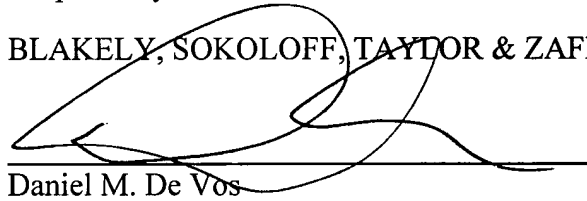
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _____ 5/9 , 2005 _____

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